

REMARKS

The Examiner's communication dated July 10, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 2-3, 5-13, 26, 30 and 32 have been amended. In addition, detailed arguments in support of patentability are presented. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 22-25 are allowed.

Claims 2-9, 11, 13 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Bellefleur (U.S. Patent No. 4,665,300) or Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,526) in view of either Di Novo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,596,972) or Bogner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,750,429).

Claims 2, 5-11, 13 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kensrue (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0200819) in view of either Di Novo et al. or Bogner et al.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Bellefleur, Lee or Kensrue in view of either Di Novo et al. or Bogner et al.

Claims 14-20 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Bellefleur, Lee or Kensrue in view of either Di Novo et al. or Bogner et al. as applied to claims 2 and 13 above, and further in view of Luo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,705,563).

Claims 14, 16, 17, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Bellefleur, Lee or Kensrue in view of either Di Novo et al. or Bogner et al. as applied to claims 2 and 13 above, and further in view of Rousculp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,060,882).

**Claims Distinguish Patentably
Over the Reference(s) of Record**

Claim 1 was allowed. **Claims 2-10** and **32** have been amended to depend from claim 1 and are therefore asserted to be allowed due to their dependency from allowed claim 1.

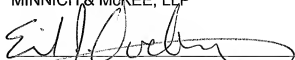
Claims 22-25 were allowed. **Claims 11-20** and **26-31** have been amended to depend from allowed claim 22. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. It is believed that the claim changes clearly place the application in condition for allowance, defining over any fair teaching attributable to the references of record. Alternatively, if the Examiner is of the view that the application is not in clear condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned for purposes of conducting a telephone interview to resolve any outstanding differences. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

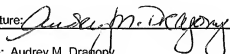
Respectfully submitted,

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September 29, 2006
Date

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